

The big carriers are saying that customers don't want number portability. That is patently false. I worked for Verizon Wireless (and it's predecessor companies) for 12 years (the last 4 managing retail stores at a regional level) and I can tell you emphatically that it was an oft asked question- "can I bring my number over from \_\_\_\_\_ (Sprint, Cingular, Voicestream, etc)?". Of course, the answer was no. I also know for a fact that many customers don't switch carriers because they've had their numbers for so many years and it would mean a loss of business to change it. So they put up with service that they otherwise wouldn't. It's obvious that number portability will force the carriers to provide a higher quality of service or face a higher risk of losing customers. Competitive pressures to improve service are preferable to state regulation as is now being proposed in Nebraska, and now doubt other states. Please allow number portability- it's what should be allowed if you truly care about open competition in a free market.